EPA Request for Postponement and In person Hearing

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To: R3 UIC Mailbo R3 UIC Mailbo @epa.gov Cc: Gillian Graber < gillian@protectpt.org>

1 attachments (290 KB)

EPA request for postponement and in person hearing.pdf;

June 17, 2022

Ryan Hancharick Source Water & UIC Section U.S. EPA Region 3

Email: R3 UIC Mailbox@epa.gov

Re EPA Reque t for Po tponement and In per on Hearing

Dear Mr. Hancharick

We are writing in response to the issuance of a draft permit PAS2D702BALL to Penneco Environmental Solution, LLC, of Delmont, PA Specifically, we have objection regarding the tentative public hearing currently scheduled virtually for June 28, 2022.

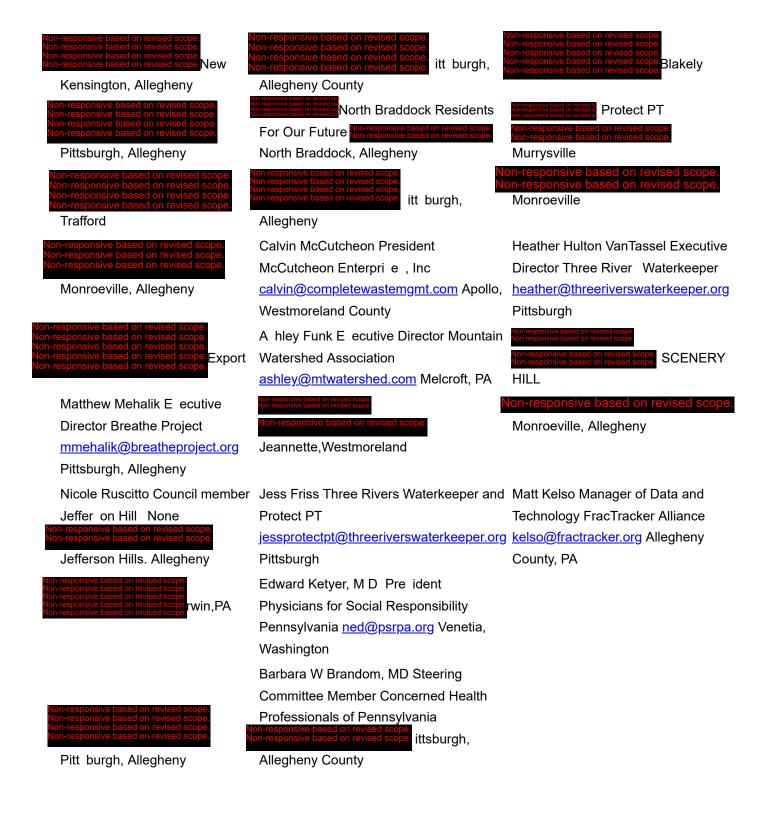
Our first objection is based on the virtual format of the hearing. Allegheny County is a diverse community whose members are always ready to voice their opinions and stimulate healthy conversation; this, however, has traditionally been conducted via in-person hearings. The community impacted by Penneco's objectives is primarily rural, and therefore its constituents cannot be expected to have reliable, widespread access to online platforms such as MS teams. While a dial-in option has been pre ented, participant who have dialed in are ea ily overlooked and uncomfortable participating due to only being able to do so at a bare minimum level. As a result, a virtual hearing would discourage conversation from some members of the community and alienate others from attending altogether. Becau e the purpo e of the e hearing i to get comment from the entire community affected, a virtual hearing will not meet this purpose in Allegheny County.

that the oil and gas industry has versus what we (local officials who are charged with protecting our elve and the public) have to review application document, re earch cientific fact and prepare comments.

We request the EPA postpone the hearing and hold it in person for the reasons outlined above, to allow appropriate participation from the public that will be impacted by the issuance of this permit.

Sincere Regard,

Gillian Graber Executive Director, Protect PT



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